(b) whether Government have proposed that all future imports of DAP and MOP would be canalized through PSU companies than to let the fertilizer companies to import the same directly; and

(c) whether this proposed canalization of fertilizer imports is likely to make prices of fertilizers cheaper for farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The entire requirement fo potash is met through imports as there are no exploitable reserves of potassic fertilizers in the country. The total import of MOP during the current year (up to 23.02.2007) was 30.40 lakh MT.

(b) The imports of all fertilizers except urea are freely allowed. However, Government is paying concession on the sales of imported DAP & MOP under the Concession Scheme for decontrolled P&K fertilizers. Government is exploring the possibilities to import these fertilizers through PSU companies to ensure timely availability of these fertilizers at the most competitive prevailing international prices.

(c) The Phosphatic & Potassic fertilizers (except SSP) covered under the Concession Scheme are sold to the farmers at uniform indicative Maximum Retail Prices throughout the country irrespective of prices of these fertilizers in the international market.

New Pharma Policy

1213. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new draft pharmaceuticals policy contains how best to protect the interests of consumers by providing drugs at reasonable prices;

(b) whether it is a fact that pharma companies are against price control system for drugs; and

(c) if so, the steps Government propose to face the situation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) to (c) Draft National Pharmaceuticals Policy-2006 was prepared by this Department after extensive discussions with various stakeholders including drug industry

associations, and in the line with the declared objective of the Government in the National Common Minimum Programme to make available life saving and essential drugs at reasonable prices to the poor. In this Policy some of the schemes for improving accessibility of free medicines to the poor are: National Health Insurance Policy for the BPL families; Larger allocation to be made for National Illness Assistance Fund/State Illness Assistance Funds; District Illness Assistance Fund to be set up; Revolving Funds for BPL families to be set up; States would also be asked to set up revolving funds in all the Government hospitals for free treatment of BPL families; Rajasthan model of Medicare Relief Societies to be replicated in all the States in the form of Drug Banks.

Some of the pharma companies have expressed their concerns about increasing the number of medicines in the basket of price control.

The Policy was submitted before the Cabinet for its approval. The Cabinet considered the Policy in its meeting held on 11-1-2007 and has referred the matter to a Group of Ministers (GoM). A GoM has since been constituted.

Fixing dividend on production cost of medicines

†1214. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government had made a draft policy in June, 2006 to fix the consumer sale price of medicines for the drug manufacturing industry;

(b) if so, whether this draft was as per the policy of fixation of consumer sale price by fixing dividend on the basis of the production cost;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the reasons for not fixing the consumer sale price of medicines by Government so far in the country on the basis of said policy?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.